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Immediate Release

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**Environment Department and Los Alamos County Finalize \$15 Million Agreement
For Wastewater System Improvements**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry and Los Alamos County Council Chairwoman Frances M. Berting will finalize a \$15 million funding agreement for improvements to the county's wastewater system.

"This funding will help Los Alamos County make substantial improvements to its wastewater facility that will help ensure the system meets state standards and protects our water quality," NMED Secretary Ron Curry said.

The formal signing of the agreement will take place at the **Los Alamos County Annex, located on 901 Trinity Drive, at 1:30 p.m. on December 12, 2005.**

The funding, a 3 percent loan that will be amortized over a 20-year term, will allow the county to begin construction of a wastewater treatment plant at a new site, west of the existing plant. It will also enable the county to rehabilitate some portions of the existing plant site and make other wastewater improvements, as approved by NMED. Upgrading its wastewater treatment system will ensure compliance with environmental regulations and protect public health.

NMED has worked closely with the county to provide technical assistance, administrative support, and to streamline federal and state requirements to provide a low-cost financing option that will allow the county to begin construction of the project.

The funding is provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, a program administered by NMED for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that provides low-cost loans to New Mexico communities to protect water quality throughout the state.

For more information, visit the NMED Construction Programs Bureau Web site at <http://www/cpb/cwsrf.html>, or call Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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